

then for sanction of post offices due to ban on creation of posts and a decision taken during 1989-90 to revise the norms in this regard in consultation with some expert agency which took some time. For the year 90-91, however, a target of opening 50 extra-departmental branch post offices was fixed which was fully achieved.

Telephone exchanges: 4 telephone exchanges (Narikudi, Suriyur, Marthandam, Pattarai-perunbudur) were installed in 1989-90 and one telephone exchange was installed at Varusanadu in 1990-91.

Complaints Regarding Excess Billing

2932. SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of complaints relating to excess billing received by Mahanagar Telephone Nigam, Delhi during 1990-91;

(b) whether these complaints have been attended to; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI P.V. RANGAYYA NAIDU): (a) to (c). The information has been called for from the concerned units and shall be placed on the table of the House as early as possible.

Rules for Public Telephones

2933. SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Department of Telecommunications has liberalised the rules for providing public telephones at common places with facility for both local and STD calls; and

(b) if so, the broad features thereof?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI P.V. RANGAYYA NAIDU): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) To enhance accessibility of telephones to public, it has been decided to substantially increase the number of public telephones (PTs) and provide these at common public places to be run by individuals or organisations.

Besides, above, under our liberalised policies for STD/ISD Public Telephones, members of the public are also eligible to apply for such public telephones. Preference is given to:

(1) Handicapped persons/War widows

(2) Ex-servicemen.

(3) Retired D.O.T. employees.

(4) Women (Educated & unemployed)

(5) SC/ST and other weaker sections of society.

Local free telephone have been installed at hospitals in major cities and District H.Q..

It has also been decided to provide S.T.D. Public Telephones at hostel with incoming facility.

Telecast of Tribal dance and Songs

2934. SHRI PARASRAM BHARDWAJ: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether tribal dance and songs are telecast on Delhi Doordarshan;

(b) if so, the number of such programmes to be telecast during the current year;

(c) whether Government have any separate agency for recording the tribal dances and songs of different tribes on different festive occasions of the tribals; and